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# THE SEEKER JOURNAL

Rituals of Memory

Ostara, 2004

Catalyst Point

Magickal Children

Fire Up Your  
Reputation with  
Feng Shui

In the News

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## About The Seeker Journal

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## About the Art

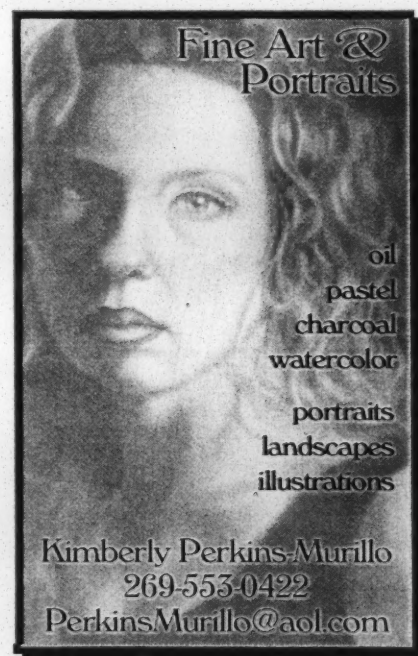
Tammy L. Gross lives in East Central Ohio with her husband and children. She is pursuing her studies in art. She creates for the mere enjoyment and is happy to be able to share with others. You can view more of her art at

<http://hometown.aol.com/starztears/index.html>

You can also email her at [Starztears@aol.com](mailto:Starztears@aol.com)

## About the Artist

This piece I titled Hel, after the Norse Goddess Hel, who represents rebirth through fire. This was done with Paint Shop and I enjoy using a "rotating mirror" to see what comes to be. I always find it interesting to see the end result. It takes an image deeper, not unlike the subconsciousness and brings out a spirit of its own.



### Rev. Bruce T. Calvert

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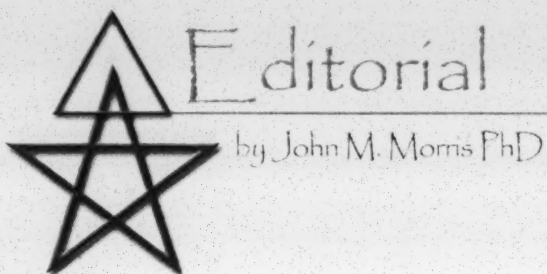
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by John M. Morris PhD



## Rituals of Memory

Back in the days when I was a more-or-less conventional minister, the hardest job of all was the leadership of funeral services. Families were often devastated by the loss of one of their members, and it seemed almost impossible for me to be of much help to them. I couldn't, with

any sincerity, give them promises of a life everlasting up among the angels in heaven, but the alternative could seem impossibly bleak and barren. In fact, if there was one personal reason for leaving a conventional ministry, it was that I couldn't deal with funerals. They were far too depressing, and I wasn't doing anybody any good.

Many years later, I began to discover the beauty and strength of the Old Religion, the faith that once gave hope to the ancient peoples, for whom the specter of death was an ever-present reality, not something that could be hidden. For these so-called primitive peoples, death could come suddenly, with the bite of a poisonous snake or an attack by some wild beast in the forests, or with an attack of disease for which there was no cure. Every culture, except our own, has had ways of dealing with the loss of a member of the tribe or village. We may be the only people, in the whole history of humanity, who have simply ignored the presence of the dread shadow that moves among us.

This seems particularly true today, as young men and women are being slaughtered in a war that none of them chose to fight, and as whole populations of totally innocent people are being destroyed. Yet this horror seem to have made no impact on the American population as a whole, least of all upon its arrogant leaders.

We are being asked to accept deaths that have no real meaning, no sense of a higher purpose. Without some sense of a higher purpose, life can seem impossibly bleak.

During recent years, however, as my dedication and understanding of the Old Ways grew, I began to find the meaning that ancient peoples brought to the loss of one of their members. It's really very simple: acceptance of death is dependent on our acceptance of life. It is the knowledge that life goes on and on. For many of us, this means reincarnation, which is part of the faith of nearly all ancient cultures, although the specific forms may vary from one group to the next. Religion was not separate from daily life in those ancient cultures. It gives us a way to deal with the sheer senselessness of death.

Starhawk's group, out in California, has produced one of the few books that actually give help in developing a ritual for the dead, *The Pagan Book of Living and Dying* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1997), which can be of help for anyone planning a Pagan memorial service. Actually, I've found the most helpful gatherings to be times when the friends gather together to share memories of the person they have loved and lost. In a group that will certainly include many non-Pagans, this kind of memorial avoids the sense that we are attempting to shove our religion down other people's throats. It also avoids the tendency to recite verses of poetry that have no real meaning for the specific person that we knew.

On the other hand, individual friends may wish to share poems or prayers that they find meaningful or that have played an important role in the life of the person whose life is being celebrated. Music is always appreciated, if it has been part of that life. What makes our memorial services meaningful is the way they grow out of our memories of the person we have lost. Our public ceremonies often emphasize the privilege that we've found in sharing a beautiful life.

The services that I've conducted have almost always included many non-Pagans, so I always try to make sure that everyone is included. That's why we emphasize the importance of sharing positive memories about our friend. On the other hand, we may wish to conduct a ritual that includes only the members of our own coven or circle, who share our very positive beliefs about life and death. We often see death as a transition from one life to the next, in which the soul or spirit leaves the worn-out body and begins a new existence. This can mean a stay in the Summerland, a beautiful place where dreams come true. After my mother and father's death, I saw them dancing

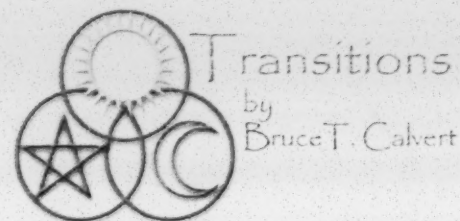


together, in the joyous dances they remembered from the time that they were young. They seemed completely happy there.

On the other hand, after my wife's death, I found only a barren plain, with green grass but with no sign of her. Apparently she had already reincarnated, to return to earth to finish the writing and research that she loved, but which were only beginning to be recognized.

These were my own experiences. Others may have very different experiences of the continuing existence of the soul or spirit. One of the surprising facts about our religion is that it relies on each individual's experience, not on some priest's teaching out of an authoritative "holy book." We are seekers, and what we find becomes our very own. This is the basis on which we build our memorial services for those that have been close to us, whom we have lost, but who are never really lost to us. The service gives us a chance to be with them again.

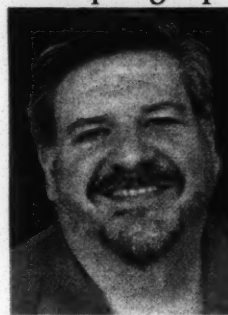
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## *Ostara, 2004*

### *The Coming of Age*

The Spring Equinox is a time of awakening.



Spring has sprung and the Earth itself awakens with new life. But not just new life. "In spring a young man's fancy turns to..." And yes, the Old Goat is frisky once again, as well. And that is the theme for this month's article: Sexual

awakenings.

Our children all grow up eventually, and most parents feel, with some justification, that they do so way too fast. Study after study has shown that our children are maturing faster than our generation, and way faster than our parent's generation did. Some studies cite the start of menstruation as early as age 10 in some girls. These same studies note that the first sexual encounter among boys is also coming at way earlier ages.

Should we ignore this fact of life? Hope that our kids are "late bloomers", or never get into any sexual situations? What are we, ostriches with our heads in the sand? To ignore the sexual development of our children is to court disaster. It seems that every week the evening news has at least one story of a young girl giving birth way too soon, or a young boy accused of rape.

No, we should embrace this new stage in our children's development and teach them the ancient mysteries. And the new science of birth control as well. (And no, I'm not going to get into a discussion of the pill verses the condom verses abstinence. As far as I'm concerned, abstinence is just another form of birth control. It just has the highest failure rate.)

We need to make sure that our children are aware of what is happening to them physically, intellectually, and emotionally. We need to arm them with accurate knowledge of the biology of reproduction, and with the beliefs that our Earth centered religions can provide regarding the sanctity of life, and the sexual act. Without both of these



schools of knowledge, biological and religious, we set our children up for early parenthood or worse, and we fail in our roles as parents.

But the delivery of this knowledge is almost as important as the knowledge itself. The old "man to man" talk is not the way to do it. Every man I've ever talked to about this has admitted that he knew more about sex than his dad by the time his old man got around to talking to him about it. Or at least he thought he did. And I have yet to meet a woman who will admit to talking candidly with her mother about her sexual awakening.

In one way women have it easier than men. Unlike our grandparent's generation, menstruation is part of our culture now. Every one gets to see ads for "feminine hygiene products" on TV. Scenes in popular movies even play it up for shock value. Who can forget the shower scene in the movie "Carrie" where she gets her first menses, and how terrified she was that she was bleeding? And while these images are certainly not the best way to approach the subject, at least the idea of how a young girl becomes a woman is out there in the popular culture.

How do we tell when a boy becomes a man? Male biology does not have a clear-cut event that marks this transition like menstruation does for women. The ability to have an erection is no indicator. Ask any mother of a young boy, and they'll tell you that even baby boys get erections. Age is certainly no gauge. Some boys are sexually active as young as 12, others are still virgins in their 20s. (Yes, Virginia, it's true, some men are virgins when they marry.)

But you know what? It doesn't matter. Biologically based sexual education should start as soon as our kids ask "Where do babies come from?" And the spiritual beliefs of the sanctity of life should be present in every ritual, in every day, of their young lives. Answer your children's questions honestly. Don't resort to those old stories

about storks or cabbage patches. And always make sure that whenever the kids are exposed to sexual themes or images on TV and at the movies; that they understand what is happening and that just because it happened on the screen doesn't

mean it has to be that way in their lives.

At some point you will suspect that it is time to celebrate your children's ascension to sexual maturity. Don't delay this celebration! Chances are you are the last one to recognize it. How you celebrate this transition, and when, is a very personal thing. Personal for you because this marks the time when you have to acknowledge that your child is becoming an adult, and personal for your child because this marks their first major step into adulthood and the personal responsibility that adulthood requires.

Some religions have established ceremonies to mark this transition from child to adult. The bar and bas mitzvah of Judaism is the most well known one here in the USA but there are others. The First Communion for Catholics marks their transition into adulthood, at least within their

faith. The adolescent circumcision rituals of some African tribes and some Islamic countries also mark the transition from child to adult. Unfortunately, most neo-pagan groups do not yet have these rituals defined.

In some ways this is unfortunate, but it also offers us a "blank pallet" to design our own ceremonies, tailored to our individual needs and the needs of our children.

Some of you may opt for a truly ancient ceremony. For the girls it may include actually going out, sitting in a hut for three days and bleeding on the earth. For the boys, a hunt followed by a "first kill" and bleeding of the face ritual may be what is called for.

But for most of us something a little less primitive might be preferred. In our grandparent's time it was the "coming out party" where a young girl,

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usually 15 or 16 years old, was formally presented as eligible for courting and marriage. For our parent's, it was the Senior Prom at school. For us it might have been when we invited that special girl to go to the movies or to a summer carnival - especially if we still had to have our parents drive us. But this all seems a tad archaic now. Especially since by the time any of these "dating" events came about, most of us were already sexually aware, if not fully active.

No, what we need is a modern ritual that recognizes the new status of the child as adult, and the new status of the parent as mentor.

Yes, I said the new status of the parent as mentor. For just as the sexual awakening of our children marks their transition into adulthood, so too it marks the time when we need to begin to let go and let them make their own mistakes.

However you plan it, and whatever ritual you choose, rest assured that the simple fact of recognizing their maturity will go a long way toward insuring that your kids internalize their new status. And they might even begin to act more like an adult!

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## *Magickal Children*

### *And Ostara*

Day in and day out we are pulled in one direction or another. Work pulls us this way and family pulls us that way. Friends tug here and personal dreams and ambitions tug there. Everywhere, we are pushed and pulled until we sometimes feel the imbalance in our lives is overwhelming.

If you have had a winter like I have had, you may be feeling the tug even more. Each time I felt I had achieved a balance between work and home, mundane and spiritual, family and friends, and needs and wants, I am thrown, once again, into a

state of confusion. This is the time of year I seek to regain some of that balance.

The act of striving for balance can be just as important as obtaining it. In searching, we discover. In the work we find purpose. The process of "seeking" helps us clarify our personal beliefs and define what we need to achieve an inner balance.

This is the time of year to embrace that process of inner work. It is the time of the vernal equinox. Put in simple terms, it is the time when daylight hours equal nighttime hours. But, the balance we seek is far from easy to explain or even define. It is ongoing work for many adults.

We look into the wise and wonderful faces of our children and we are in awe at what we see. Their lives seem so uncomplicated compared to ours. They have the loving arms of their family wrapped around them to protect them and guide them. They have the warmth of unconditional love to shield them from the coldness of the world. We willingly and joyously meet their needs to foster a feeling of security. They have food to nourish their bodies and our glorious spirituality to nourish their spirit. Their lives seem in perfect balance compared to the struggles we deal with daily.

But, our world is not theirs and theirs is not ours. From their perspective, life can feel just as confusing and complicated. Without the life experiences that bring clarity and understanding to the events in our lives, children depend on us to clear the way.

Mabon was the autumnal equinox. Many of us began a journey to find balance in our lives at that time. You may have helped your children examine and reflect on their lives and what they needed to bring back to the center.

Now that the spring equinox is upon us, why not reflect together on the progress you have made toward that goal. Honestly look at what work still needs to be completed. Assist them in finding ways to assess what they have accomplished and what work they still need to do. Be a role model that demonstrates honest reflection even if what we see isn't as complimentary as we would like.

Set attainable goals and guide your children to do the same. If you set the goals too high, the fall may damage you, and them, in ways you can't foresee. Too low, and the results may not be effective or satisfying.



The ability to set goals that can be reached within a time frame that is meaningful and workable is a desirable life skill that carries over into other areas of our lives.

To help children set attainable goals in a reasonable time frame, you need to be clear on what work needs to be done. To make it more fun for young children, why not take two plastic colored eggs of different colors, yellow and red for example. Identify the yellow one as the Vernal Equinox egg and the red one as the Autumnal Equinox egg. After reflection and discussion, have them write what they need to work on to bring balance to their lives.

It might be as simply balancing playtime and schoolwork. Perhaps it is more complex such as balancing friendships. Decide on no more than the child can handle. A very young child might only have one or two things to write at this time. An older child might have three or four.

Put the slips of paper in the yellow egg and place both eggs on an altar or in your child's special place. Refer to the yellow egg of goals often throughout the next half of the year to identify when they have been reached, and to keep communication open between parent and child. When a goal is reached place the slip of paper in the red egg. On the Autumnal Equinox, open the red egg and examine whether the goals were maintained or if more work needs to be done. If you still have items in the yellow egg, work on setting more reasonable goals and time frames.

Our Sabbats have been distorted and our celebrations have been stolen by those whose sought to gain and then maintain, power by eliminating us and our religion. As adults we have taken them back. But, in my opinion, we need to take them back for our children, also. With each Sabbat, our identity becomes clearer. With each celebration, we share the joy and beauty of our beliefs. Don't be afraid to take back our symbols and let your children enjoy them.

Share the mythology of the holiday. Connect the symbolism of the rabbit to this fertility holiday and the egg to life's mysteries. Discuss spring and the equinox and its significance to people who

lived by the land. Teach them about the Goddesses we honor on this day.

Children, and playful adults, enjoy coloring eggs.

Before dying eggs, add vinegar to the water to adhere the dye to the eggs and use a crayon or wax to draw sigils or write messages on each egg. The dye won't stick to that part of the egg.

You can boil the eggs in water with the dye included or you can soak the eggs in a cold water dye for approximately 15 minutes.

Instead of using store bought food dye, why not use nature's dye? For deep yellow use tumeric and for soft yellow use carrots. Blue can be made from blackberries, canned blueberries, or red cabbage.

Raspberries and beets produce a red while paprika makes a wonderful orange. For browns and blacks use tea, coffee, or oak bark. To create a marble effect, add a little olive oil to the colored water.

Older children can write a short skit about the waking spring. If they are included in your ritual, have them assign parts and act it out. Create puppets with socks, paper mache', or clay. Encourage them to write and perform a puppet show for younger children.

Finding signs of spring not only raises our spirits, but eases the wait for summer. Plan for a scavenger hunt outside. Instead of finding planted items, make a list of all the signs of spring you can identify. See who finds the most. Look for animal tracks, birds, early flowers, buds, etc. At noon on Ostara, talk a walk in the woods and tap the trees to wake up spring. This actually has a beneficial effect. It helps the sap to flow. Why not make a wand to tap it with. In a previous article we talked about making elemental rattles. Why not make an Ostara rattle? Decorate it with signs of spring and color it with vibrant colors. Have your child write a poem or chant and sing it with joy as you rattle to wake up the life that has been resting in Mother Earth.

The flowers of Ostara are iris, honeysuckle, peony, violet, and other early bloomers. Take tissue paper and make bouquets of spring flowers to place around the house. Make an extra one for an eld-

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---



erly neighbor or relative.

Why not bake cookies in the shape of flowers and bring them with you, along with the "flowers", for a spring tea party? The elderly may find it difficult to get around all winter and may be shut in for long periods of time. That can lead to depression and despair. Your child will feel so wonderful and will be doing a good deed for someone else. To bring a little spring into someone's life is bring a smile to the Gods themselves.

If you haven't started planting your seeds yet, this is the time to begin.

Let your children decide what type of garden you should plant or let them plan one of their own. They can pick the seeds of the plants they want to include in their garden. Let them pick a theme such as a butterfly garden with plants to attract butterflies or hummingbirds. Plant a rainbow garden with plants the color of the rainbow in the order that they appear. These are also the colors of the chakras and can be used for a chakra garden. A texture garden can be fun as well as educational with plants of different textures of leaves and flowers such as fuzzy, silky, soft, thick, prickly, etc. Start seeds for an edible garden. Don't forget to put a chipped clay flowerpot upside down to make a frog house and whichever your child decides to make, be sure to include places for them to sit and enjoy it.

The themes of Ostara are those of renewal, spring, balance, life, and rebirth. Use these themes to encourage children to set goals for the various things they want to grow and renew in their lives. Be role models by setting realistic goals and seeking balance in your own lives. Take them outside to welcome the spring and breathe deeply as the Mother's essence is once again released from the earth. Reclaim our holiday and share this wondrous gift with your children. I hope you have a joyous holiday.

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## Reviews

By John M. Morris, Ph.D.

LON MILO DUQUETTE. *THE MAGICK OF ALEISTER CROWLEY: A HANDBOOK OF RITUALS OF THELEMA*. YORK BEACH (ME): WEISER BOOKS, 2003. 261 pp., \$19.95. (FORMERLY TITLED *THE MAGICK OF THELEMA*.)

LON MILO DUQUETTE. *UNDERSTANDING ALEISTER CROWLEY'S THOTH TAROT: AN AUTHORITATIVE EXAMINATION OF THE WORLD'S MOST FASCINATING AND MAGICAL TAROT CARDS*. YORK BEACH (ME): WEISER BOOKS, 2003. 331 pp., \$24.95.

Aleister Crowley (1875-1947) is perhaps the most fascinating figure in our early Twentieth Century history, far more interesting, though arguably less influential, than the later Wicca guru Gerald Gardner.

Crowley devoted his life, and his considerable fortune, to the development of the magical system that he called *Thelema*, taking the name from the mythical religious community celebrated by Rabelais, in his 16th century novel, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*. The motto for this co-ed monastery was "Do what you will," and the goal was finding what you truly willed.

Richard Kaczynski's biography of Crowley, *Perdurabo*, reviewed here in May, tells the story of Crowley's attempt to build an influential movement, based on magical control over the will. These two new books, *The Magick of Aleister Crowley* and *Understanding Aleister Crowley's Thoth Tarot* give some of the details of the complex magical system that Crowley built up.

*Magick* is a series of rituals that the initiate performs for self-realization and personal power. A brief sample of the Attainment ritual will give some sense of the impressive strength that these rituals develop. The adept utters these words, signifying the role of the guardian angel: "I am He! The Bornless Spirit having sight in the feet: Strong, and the Immortal Fire! ... I am He! The Truth! ... I am He! That hate that evil should be wrought in the World! ..." And so on, through a series of affirmations, with explanations attached. Study of the rituals in this collection should give a much better understanding of the power of this magical path. And I'd love to have the chance to carry them out, not merely to read them.

Duquette's book on Crowley's *Thoth Tarot* is a good deal more than an explanation of the many, many symbols contained in one of our favorite tarot decks. There is an introduction to Crowley's *Book of Thoth*, material on the Golden Dawn and the Rose Cross - two of my own fascinations back when I was a teen-ager - and other information



that will help in readings from this engrossing deck of cards. U.S. Games also publishes an introduction to this deck, *The Crowley Tarot*, by Akron and Hajo Banzhaf. Crowley's tarot is quite different in feel from the many cartoonish tarots that are popular today, but you'll find that it takes you much farther into Crowley's world of occult knowledge.

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## *Fire Up your Reputation With Feng Shui*

By Rev. Merrie Hutchins

Last month, no doubt, you celebrated the Sabbat commonly known as Imbolc, or sometimes referred to as Candlemas. Lighting candles on this day, be it one or an entire crown of candles worn by the Goddess Representative, is quite common. Once the rite was over, the candles were either snuffed or burned out. But, you can light an internal candle with Feng Shui, which will make your aura "shine" as you "walk your talk" in this world.

How do you want to be seen by others and what do they know you for? Everything you do and put your energy into, be it behavior, actions and words, mold how others perceive you. Be it wrong or right, people judge you all day, every day. Despite what your reputation has been in the past, you now have the opportunity to manifest a brighter future. The center of your home is the Fame and Reputation Center, and you can embellish this area and use it to gain respect, at home, at work or in the community.

Once your Fame Center is energized, you will:

- τ Devise a plan about how you want to be perceived by others from now on.

- τ Attain deserved respect.
- τ Attract recognition for your unique talents.
- τ Publicly promote yourself.

Since the fame and Reputation Center is focused on your character and image, you can change your reputation and be acknowledged for something fresh. You may be a career person wishing to be noticed as also being a fantastic parent. Or on the other hand, you may be a parent who also has an incredible artistic talent. Whatever may be your personal situation; you can manifest a more positive and satisfying public image.

Be very clear about your desires, mind you, remember to "be careful what you wish for" in magick, because by energizing and awakening this energy center, the Fame Center can propel you into the spotlight!

For those of you who are not familiar with the different centers of a Feng Shui home, this is how you divide it up. Imagine being directly above your home, as if you were floating above it. Now, draw the main floor out like blueprints. And here's the easy part: draw a tic-tac-toe kind of graph over your "blueprint". These are your energy centers. It's a lot like your chakras; except instead of being in a straight row, you have squares. How you determine where the "top" and "bottom" are is easy, the front door (at least the one you use most often) determines the proper placement, as it lies on the "bottom" of the "tic-tac-toe". The Fame and Reputation Center is the middle top square.

Lets get back to the "candle" you will be using to light you up from the inside. Fire is the Element for the Fame Center since it illuminates you uniquely. Your characteristics and accomplishments are your own and your internal flames spark new ideas, giving you something to aspire to. You will find yourself motivated into new directions as this fiery energy propels you into the limelight. Have you noticed that successful people are "on fire"? These are the people at the top of the mountain. Since your reputation is determined over time, you can climb to the top too, one step at a time. This kind of manifestation requires determination and the more you "walk your talk" the sooner your new fame will be revealed. By refining your honorable virtues you can outwardly shine them for all to see.



**Tools and Set-Up**

Light yourself up by placing appropriate "Fire" objects to create your chosen outcome:

- τ **Light your fireplace, candles or lamps.**  
These are powerful energizers, but for safety reasons you may use lights or, to save on the electric bill, nightlights. Make sure these lamps propel red light up to the ceiling.
- τ **Tall, healthy plants.** If possible, use red pants, either live or silk. Remember to keep cut flowers fresh; dead items like potpourri aren't good Feng Shui!
- τ **Artwork or pictures of the Sun, Fire, fireworks, etc.**
- τ **Objects of recognition or certificates of appreciation.** These can include but are not limited to: diplomas, trophies prizes, endorsements, and credentials. These can be from school, work, community, or your family.
- τ **The TV and radio** are perfectly placed in this center. By simply turning them on your fame and reputation is being broadcast anywhere and everywhere!
- τ **Who do you admire or wish to emulate?**  
Place objects or pictures of respected teachers, performers, heroes, mentors, authors, business people, and celebrities in the Fame Center.

**Feng Shui No-No's**

What to stay away from: The bathroom. You don't want your reputation in the sewer or your fame flushed down the toilet. If this is your situation however, you can use the following techniques to counteract the problem:

- τ Keep the bathroom door closed at all times.
- τ Keep the toilet seat down and stoppers in the drains.
- τ Keep a lamp or a nightlight with a red bulb on 24 hours a day.
- τ Place a healthy plant higher than the toilet, but not sitting on it.
- τ Burn red candles while in the bathroom.
- τ Place a small plant, flowers (live or silk), or fabric on both sides of the toilet to insulate its energy impact.
- τ Place mirrors around the bathroom to activate and circulate the energy you are manifesting.
- τ Remove all water elements, like a water

fountain, and add them to your Wealth/Career center.

- τ Avoid all Water symbols such as rain, oceans, rivers, snow and lakes.
- τ Remove negative symbols. Anything that does not represent you or how you want to be know in the future need to be cleared away. This includes photos, art, books, etc. that represent people or situations with negative reputations and questionable ethics.

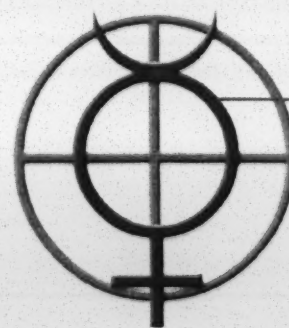
**Affirmations**

Magickal people use affirmations, and there's no reason why you can't implement this technique with your Feng Shui practices. Try something that expresses how grateful you are for not only your accomplishments, but for being recognized for them as well. Don't be ashamed of your talents! You have a good name; you do good works and give your projects your all, don't you? Be thrilled for being known for these things. Be thankful for what you have accomplished so far, but don't forget to be thankful for those things to come. Bring your desires to you that much quicker. There's no reason to postpone your happiness and desires.

Happy manifesting!

**Source**

**FENG SHUI YOUR LIFE BY JAYME BARRETT**



**In the News**

with Dave Burwasser

**Faith Based Stonewalling****Wiccans' Request For Charitable Aid Rebuffed**

In April 2003 Ravenwood Church and Seminary of Wicca, the first public Wiccan church in Atlanta, GA, made a serious application for \$85,000 from the state Department of Community Affairs to get a shelter started for Douglas County's homeless and mentally ill, including veterans. They got turned down.

Ravenwood had identified an apartment complex and two houses that could shelter 62 individuals. The proposal estimated that half the occupants would have criminal histories, and put the annual cost at \$229,000.



The application was turned down last July, for a number of reasons including lack of other funding sources.

Those reasons may be good ones but, with the national Faith Based czar claiming that Pagans don't have good enough hearts to really be charitable, it's frustrating when we are not extended the opportunity to demonstrate otherwise.

--oOo--

### **Book Ban Sought**

Parents in Washington Township, NJ, have banded together to ban occult books in public school libraries, and want chain bookstores to treat books on the occult "like pornography," wrapped and placed so as not to be readily accessible to minors. The nonprofit National Concerned Citizens for Youth intends to take both campaigns nationwide.

The material that triggered these actions was Satanic rather than Pagan, but anyone with experience in this area knows the two quickly get lumped together when panic begins to develop.

A group of boys formed an interest in the occult, and one of them went so far as superficial self-mutilation. According to his parents' account, their son had never been a leader in anything and became a leader among these four youngsters.

While acknowledging that the books in question -- "*The Devil's Storybook*" (1974), a humorous anthology by children's author Natalie Nesbitt; and "*The Devil: Great Mysteries, Opposing Viewpoints*" (1992) by freelance writer Thomas Schouweiler, part of the "Great Mysteries, Opposing Viewpoints" educational series -- do have educational value, the parents of the young leader asked the local school board to remove them. Since downloads via school computer from occult Web sites were part of their son's interest, they also complained to the school administration about occult sites and requested that their son's access to computers be restricted.

The school district has a policy that a committee temporarily remove books drawing parental complaints from the shelves for review. However, they will not yank every book about which a parent complains.

So far the school has not responded relative to computer use. Our source, a copyrighted story in the *Courier-Post*, does not indicate what kinds of content filters already exist on the school computers.

A psychologist contacted by reporter Tim Zatzariny Jr. said that occultism is a typical adolescent rebellion

format, especially by white, upper middle class males, and suggested banning the material might not be a solution.

Meanwhile the youngster in question, cut off from his occult-oriented peers by his parents, has shifted his interest to Christian rock music.

--oOo--

### **Bewitched Beyond The Baltic**

A survey by VTsIOM-A (Russia) has shown that, while 85% of Americans and 53% of Russians believe in angels, 38% of Russians believe in witches versus 24% of Americans, according to a Moscow Times story.

It's sort of odd to find a story about belief in witches when you are one.

Reminds us of the Unitarian minister who, when asked if he believed in baptism, said: "Believe in it? I've seen it!"

--oOo--

### **Wiccans Support Catholic Parish In Defilement Case**

The parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church in south Boston, recently defiled by two teenaged vandals, have been surprised by an outpouring of sympathy and offers of clean-up help from Wiccans locally and around the country.

One of the miscreants, after being arrested, stated his belief in witchcraft and claimed an association with Wicca. The story was reported in the *Patriot Ledger*, went out on the wire and was posted on Wiccan site *The Wren's Nest*, where it has been viewed over 2,000 times.

Wiccans nationwide have been outraged by the desecration of anyone's sacred space, and sickened that anyone would think such actions were consistent with Wicca. *The Wren's Nest* has posted the church's address so contributions can be sent to defray the cost of cleanup, which has been completed at a cost at least \$10,000.

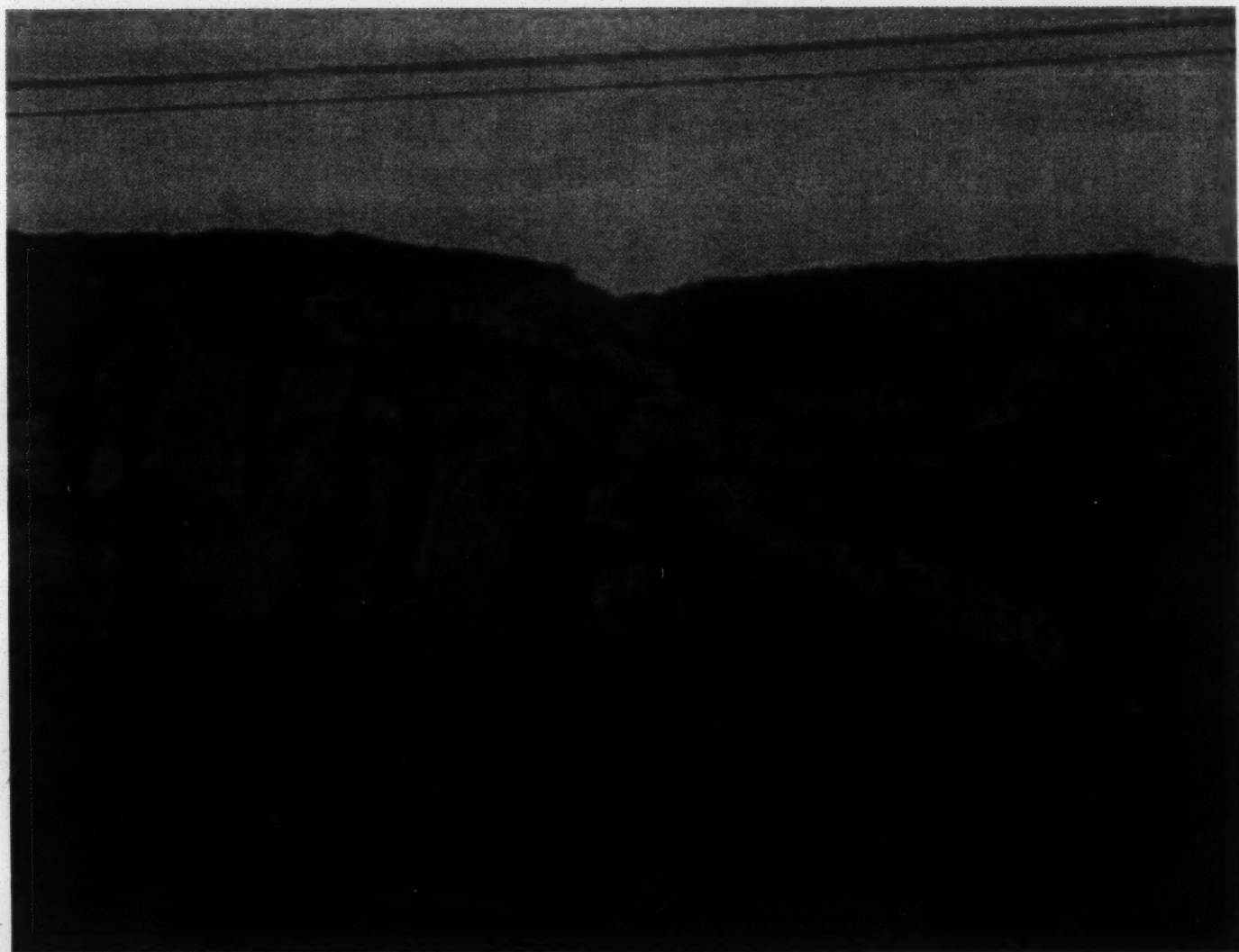
We don't want to do the work of the Immaculate Conception pastor for him, but this could make an interesting sermon topic.

--oOo--

David Burwasser is a Board Member Emeritus of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, Inc (CUUPS); a co-founder of *Chalice in the Woods*, a UU Pagan weekend campout; and High Priest of *Watershed Coven* in Oberlin.

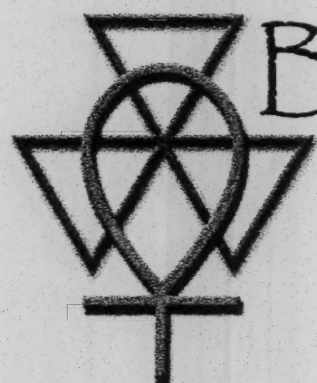


# The Soccer Journal



## The Back Page





# Bulletin Board

*While we believe listings on our bulletin board to be correct at the time of publication, you would do well to check with the sponsors before traveling any great distance to listed events.*

To list your event free (100 words or less), contact *The Seeker Journal* ([seeker@seekerjournal.org](mailto:seeker@seekerjournal.org)). Please specify: type of event, date and time, location, and contact information. **Contact information must be provided.**

## Classes

Class	Day/Time	Description	Location	Contact
Wicca 101 Classes	Mondays or Wednesdays 7-9 p.m.	Free Wicca 101 classes starting monthly at the Sacred Hearth Covenstead. The eight-class course covers the basics of Wicca and Witchcraft from a practical perspective, centering around our relationship with deity. Some advanced material is presented. Practitioners at all levels are welcome. Sacred Hearth is an eclectic coven welcoming all who seek a closer relationship with the Lord and Lady and other practitioners of Witchcraft and Wicca.	Ann Arbor	Nancy Liedel, HPS, 734-327-0535 or <a href="mailto:naliedel@earthlink.net">naliedel@earthlink.net</a>
Earth Centered Traditions	Second and Fourth Mondays	Eclectic Pagan and Earth-centered spirituality group offering group study, workshops, activities, and open ritual. UU Church, off Abbott Road behind the Public Library.	East Lansing, Michigan	<a href="mailto:Delta@acd.net">Delta@acd.net</a> , or (517) 339-2796
Ordo Templi Orientis	Contact sponsor	By allegory and symbol, the Order seeks to instruct individuals in the profound mysteries of existence. Inspired, in part, by Aleister Crowley.	Royal Oak, Michigan.	Blue Equinox Oasis, PO Box 628 Royal Oak, MI 48068.
Witchcraft 101 & 102	Contact sponsor	Weekly Meetings at Isle of Avalon, 412 E. Fourth Street	Royal Oak, Michigan	(248) 336-8228



Federation of Circles and Solitaries	Contact sponsor	The Downriver group, The Federation of Circles and Solitaries, holds seasonal rituals and weekly classes. "This is a very relaxed fellowship circle and a whole lot of fun." No alcohol, drugs, or weapons allowed at Federation events. Circles are held rain or shine. Classes must be paid for in advance, and openings are limited.	South of Detroit, MI	Greg @ (800) 312-3522 or see our web site <a href="http://www.FOCASMI.org">www.FOCASMI.org</a>
Circle of the Twelve Oaks	3rd Wed. 7- 9 p.m.	Location varies, as do subjects. Circle of the Twelve Oaks.	West of Detroit, MI	<a href="mailto:brown_wren@hotmail.com">brown_wren@hotmail.com</a>
Seven Generations	Thurs. Mar. 11 8-11 p.m.	Hair Beading for Magickal Purposes. Learn hair beading with magickal intent under the full moon. Bring plastic pony beads or small rubber bands or a \$3 donation. 1910 Hill St. (basement). <a href="http://www.sacredpath.org/7genc">www.sacredpath.org/7genc</a>	Ann Arbor, MI	Greenrain <a href="mailto:diaroque928@yahoo.com">diaroque928@yahoo.com</a> (734) 904-4862



# Weekly Events

Event	Day/Time	Description	Location	Contact
Earth Centered Traditions	Second and Fourth Mondays, 7 p.m.	Eclectic Pagan and Earth-centered spirituality group offering group study, workshops, activities, and open ritual. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St. (off Abbott Road), behind the Public Library	East Lansing, MI	<a href="mailto:Delta@acd.net">Delta@acd.net</a> or (517) 339-2796.
Pagan Coffee Night	Tuesdays, 7 p.m.	Informal weekly discussion/networking/social/ support meetings. PO Box 614, Houghton MI 49913.	Houghton, MI	<a href="mailto:Hearth@mailcity.com">Hearth@mailcity.com</a> <a href="http://pages.whowhere.com/community/hearth">http://pages.whowhere.com/community/hearth</a>
Wiccan Journey	Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.	A discussion group centered around exploring Wiccan ideas and beliefs. MSU Union	East Lansing, Michigan	Jason Mankey, <a href="mailto:solivictus@yahoo.com">solivictus@yahoo.com</a>
Shamanic Journeys	Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.	Weekly trance-journeys to distant realms of the spirit for healing, divination, personal transformation. Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (behind 1520). Please park on nearby side streets.	Ann Arbor, MI	(734) 665-3522 or e-mail <a href="mailto:jmm@cyberspace.org">jmm@cyberspace.org</a>
Green Spiral	Every other Wednesday.	Green Spiral is a discussion and networking group for Pagan students at Michigan State and folks in the surrounding Lansing area. We welcome people of all ages and stages of learning. Meetings are every other Wednesday, year-round. Visit our web site or drop us an email for more information!	East Lansing, Michigan	<a href="mailto:Pagan@pilot.msu.edu">Pagan@pilot.msu.edu</a> <a href="http://www.msu.edu/~pagan/">http://www.msu.edu/~pagan/</a>
Pagan Chat Nights	Thursdays 7:30 p.m.	Federation of Circles and Solitaries. An hour of mix and mingle, followed by an hour of discussion on a new topic each week Somethin's Brewin', 15371 Dix-Toledo Road	Southgate, Michigan	Greg@ (800) 312-3522 or <a href="http://www.FOCASMI.org">www.FOCASMI.org</a>
Open Grove Society	Every Other Thursday, 8 p.m.	We are a pagan organization on the campus of Central Michigan University. We hold at least one workshop per month on various topics. Central Michigan University, Ampach Hall, Rm. 157.	Mt. Pleasant, Michigan	<a href="mailto:Panthera333@moonshinehollow.com">Panthera333@moonshinehollow.com</a>



Event	Day/Time	Description	Location	Contact
Crystal Treasures Workshops	Fridays, 7 p.m.	Discuss the topics you want to discuss with like-minded individuals. 104 W. Walton Blvd.	Pontiac, Michigan.,	<a href="mailto:Crystreasur@aol.com">Crystreasur@aol.com</a> (148) 335-1405.
Fire Ritual	Third Fridays, 7:30 - 10 p.m.	A very old ceremony of Peruvian spellcasting. \$27 plus a can of food for charity	Romulus or Ann Arbor, Michigan	<a href="mailto:mikon77@comcast.net">mikon77@comcast.net</a> .
Drumming Circle	Every other Saturday 8-10 p.m.	\$2 site fee. Isle of Avalon, 738 S. Washington.	Royal Oak, Michigan	(248) 336-8228.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays 11 a.m.	AA group welcomes Pagans and their friends. Isle of Avalon, 738 S. Washington	Royal Oak, Michigan	(248) 336-8228.
Monthly Gathering	Sundays 2-4 p.m.	E-Groups meet for discussion. Denny's, 715 44th St. SW at US-131, Wyoming MI 49509. Sanctuary of the Silver Moon.	Grand Rapids	<a href="mailto:Grsotsm@yahoogroups.com">Grsotsm@yahoogroups.com</a>
Wiccan Church of Canada	Sundays 8 p.m.	Public rituals at 100 Vaughan Road. Classes every Tuesday at 8 p.m. Newsletter available at Sabbats.	Toronto, Ontario	(416) 656-6564.
Meet and Greet	Sundays Noon-2 p.m.	Meeting for coffee at the 28th Street Barnes & Noble. Yummy desserts/treats. Sanctuary of the Silver Moon	Grand Rapids, MI.	<a href="mailto:Grsotsm@yahoogroups.com">Grsotsm@yahoogroups.com</a>
Paranormal & Metaphysics	First and Third Sundays	Come join us as we share our experiences and learn about the Supernatural. \$3 site fee. Isle of Avalon, 738 S. Washington, Royal Oak.	Royal Oak, MI	(248) 336-8228.
Coven of the Sacred Hearth	Contact sponsor	Coven of the Sacred Hearth holds various classes, meetings, and rituals.	Ann Arbor, Michigan	<a href="http://www.sacredhearth.org">www.sacredhearth.org</a>



Event	Day/Time	Description	Location	Contact
Ordo Templi Orientis	Contact sponsor	The OTO, of which Aleister Crowley was perhaps the best-known member, holds weekly formal rituals, some of which are open to the public. Meeting Place to be determined. Blue Equinox Oasis Ecclesiae Gnosticae Catholicae Canon Missae	Royal Oak, MI	(800) 806-5811
Earth-Based Spirituality for Teens	Tuesdays 7 p.m.	Join us to explore alternate paths to individual spiritual expression, training and growth. Ritual, discussion, crafts, and other activities. An extension of Spiral Scouts Oaken Grove Circle. AMOC@comcast.net	Call for location	JoAnn Radell, (810) 220-1546 <u>MandMs01@comcast.net</u> t



# Monthly Events

Event	Day/Time	Description	Location	Contact
Coffee Hour	Mar. 8 6-9 p.m.	Pagan social hour. First Sunday of every month. Java Hutt Café, 165 West Nine Mile Road. Magical Education Council	Ferndale, Michigan.	<a href="mailto:JMo4970872@cs.com">JMo4970872@cs.com</a>
Meet and Greet	Mar. 5 8-9 p.m.	Meets on the first Friday of every month at Caribou Coffee Company, Borders Book Shop, off Novi Road, just south of I-96. We have a general social gathering for all interested. Free. Circle of the Twelve Oaks.	Novi, Michigan	<a href="mailto:brown_wren@hotmail.com">brown_wren@hotmail.com</a>
The Pagan Roundtable	Mar. 2 7:00 p.m.	Discussions and Networking for Witches, Druids, Magicians, and other assorted Pagans. First Tuesday of every month. Mt. Clemens Public Library, 150 Cass Avenue, Downstairs in the Community Room. Please put Pagan Roundtable in your subject line.	Mt. Clemens, Michigan	Arwen at <a href="mailto:StarEnd@aol.com">StarEnd@aol.com</a> .
Witches Meetup Day	Mar. 2 8 p.m.	A series of monthly informal gatherings in local restaurants, part of an international effort to bring Witches together.	Various locations	<a href="http://witches.meetup.com">http://witches.meetup.com</a>
Moon Mist Rising Full Moon Celebration	Mar. 6 6:30 pm	Celebrate full moons with Moon Mist Rising at Bentmore Farm, 3655 West 32 Mile Road. Access via Rochester Road to 32 Mile, then east to Dequindre, south to Predmore, east to Farm or via Van Dyke, going west past Mound one mile.  Call to confirm; bring folding chairs, bug spray, cover-ups, and a finger food snack to share.	Predmore, MI	Caridwyn 586 781-6403 Brian 586 752-2022
Full Moon Gatherings	Mar. 6 6:30 - 9 p.m.	Our group intention is to practice our learnings and share our teachings with others to enhance our community. Participate in rituals from a variety of traditions.	Ann Arbor, Michigan	Valerie at <a href="mailto:Designwitch@earthlink.net">Designwitch@earthlink.net</a>
Full Moon Ritual	Mar. 6 7 p.m.	Ritual begins promptly at 7 p.m. Our circles are small and limited to 12 participants. Those interested should contact the HPS.	Ann Arbor, Michigan	<a href="http://home.earthlink.net/~nal">Http://home.earthlink.net/~nal</a>



Druidic Coffee Hour	Mar. 19 7-9 p.m.	A time to get together with friends and discuss topics of interest to us all. All welcome. Borders Books, 3527 Washtenaw.	Ann Arbor, Michigan	<a href="http://www.msen.com/~robh/sl">www.msen.com/~robh/sl</a> <a href="#">g/</a>
SatC Coffee Hour	Mar. 16 7-9 p.m.	Come meet local Wiccans, Reconstructionists, and other Pagans in a friendly setting. Donations for coffee and other drinks and snacks. At the Isle of Avalon, 738 S. Washington, Royal Oak MI 48067	Royal Oak, Michigan	<a href="mailto:Satc@spiritatthecenter.org">Satc@spiritatthecenter.org</a> <a href="http://www.spiritatthecenter.org">www.spiritatthecenter.org</a>
A Monthly Offering	Mar. 21	An offering to our Deities, based on the Despacho ritual of the Andean pagos (shaman priests), adapted for our use. Please bring personal, environmentally friendly offering. Free. Matt Ikonen, 810 N. Mill St.	Plymouth, Michigan	(734) 516-2978. <a href="http://Mywebpages.com/cast.net/mikon77">http://Mywebpages.com/cast.net/mikon77</a>
Women's Full Moon Ritual	Sat. Mar. 6 7:30-10:30 p.m.	Attune with the moon and make some magick with the women of 7 Gen. This month's ritual honors Isis. Seven Generations, 1910 Hill St. (basement) <a href="http://www.sacredpath.org/7genc">www.sacredpath.org/7genc</a>	Ann Arbor, MI	<a href="mailto:paulasteel@comcast.net">paulasteel@comcast.net</a> or (734) 904-1168
Full Moon Drum Circle	Sat., Mar. 6 8-11 p.m.	An evening of rhythmic adventure around the fire. All drums welcome. Dancing too. Seven Generations, 1910 Hill St. (basement)	Ann Arbor, MI	<a href="mailto:paulasteel@comcast.net">paulasteel@comcast.net</a> (734) 904-1168
Divination Night	Fri., Mar. 12 7:30-10:30 p.m.	Grab your tarot deck, your pendulum or your runes and join the fun of sharing your divination gifts. Seven Generations. 1910 Hill St. (basement)	Ann Arbor, MI	<a href="mailto:paulasteel@comcast.net">paulasteel@comcast.net</a> or <a href="mailto:ange429@yahoo.com">ange429@yahoo.com</a>
New Moon Movie Night	Sat. Mar. 20 8-11 p.m.	Enjoy a featured movie on a big 8' screen. Popcorn and pop, or bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Seven Generations. Non-members \$3. 1910 Hill St. (basement).	Ann Arbor, MI	<a href="mailto:paulasteel@comcast.net">paulasteel@comcast.net</a> or (734) 904-1168
Pagan Chant Night	Fri. Feb. 27 8-11 p.m.	Finally, a chance to keep those elusive Pagan chants fresh in our memory. An evening of singing and sharing. Seven Generations, 1910 Hill St.	Ann Arbor, MI	<a href="mailto:moonowl@comcast.net">moonowl@comcast.net</a> or <a href="mailto:paulasteel@comcast.net">paulasteel@comcast.net</a> or (734) 904-1168



# Special Events

Event	Day/Time	Description	Location	Contact
Memorial Day Weekend	May 28-31, 2004	Aeon 3 Sacred Earth Retreat, celebrating the sanctity of the Web of Life and the power of Cooperative Community, at a 175 acre secluded nature sanctuary hidden in the green hills of Southern Indiana. Many workshops and ritual events. \$50 before Dec. 21.	Odonata, PO Box 2055, Bedford, Indiana 47421	<a href="mailto:aeonarc@yahoo.com">aeonarc@yahoo.com</a> <a href="http://www.magickmonkey.com">www.magickmonkey.com</a>
Trance Formation	Feb. 5-9, 2004	A 5-day Trance, Drum & Ritual Arts intensive. Ritual style and trance techniques that empower individuals. In the hills of Central Missouri. Diana's Grove, PO Box 159	Salem, Missouri 65560	<a href="http://www.dianasgrove.com">www.dianasgrove.com</a> 573-689-2400
SORCery 2004	March 18-21	Southern Ontario Regional Convention. "Pagan Paths: Finding Your Way." Drumming, many workshops. C\$50 Stratford Festival Inn.	Stratford, Ontario	<a href="mailto:Registration@SORCeryconvention.com">Registration@SORCeryconvention.com</a>
Pagan Spirit Gathering	June 20-27	Week-long program of workshops, rituals, drumming, and much else, at Wisteria Campground. Circle Sanctuary, PO Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572. <a href="http://www.circlesanctuary.org/events">Www.circlesanctuary.org/events</a>	Southern Ohio	(608) 924-2216
Parliament of the World's Religions	July 7-13	Major gathering of world religious leaders for an extensive exchange of views. Once held every century, the Parliament now meets every six years, and has become the largest and most comprehensive of the international interfaith conferences.	Barcelona, Spain	<a href="http://www.cpwr.org">www.cpwr.org</a>





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**Book: Learning the Tarot, Joan Bunning**

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**Week 5. We will be doing pratice readings on each other.**

**Week 6. Do a reading for the teacher and the store manager for your finale exam.**

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Teacher: Kamona is a Witch and Mistress of the ElderFaith Tradition Craft.

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Mahalo



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